

National Transportation Safety Board

§ 821.19

not have been discovered with reasonable diligence within the prescribed time.

§ 821.16 Appeals from law judge's interlocutory rulings and motions.

Rulings of law judges on motions may not be appealed to the Board prior to its consideration of the entire proceeding, except in extraordinary circumstances and with the consent of the law judge who made the ruling. An appeal shall be disallowed unless the law judge finds, either on the record or in writing, that to allow such an appeal is necessary to prevent substantial detriment to the public interest or undue prejudice to any party. If an appeal is allowed, any party may file a brief with the Board within such time as the law judge directs. No oral argument will be heard unless the Board directs otherwise. The rulings of the law judge on motion may be reviewed by the Board in connection with its appellate action in the proceeding, irrespective of the filing of an appeal from the motion or any action taken thereon.

§ 821.17 Motion to dismiss and for judgment on the pleadings.

(a) *General.* A motion to dismiss may be filed within the time limitation for filing an answer, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this section. If the motion is not granted in its entirety, the answer shall be filed within 10 days of service of the law judge's order on the motion.

(b) *Judgment on the pleadings.* A party may file a motion for judgment on the pleadings where no answer has been filed or where there are no issues to be resolved.

(c) *Appeal of dismissal orders and grants of motions for judgment on the pleadings.* When a law judge grants a motion for judgment on the pleadings or a motion to dismiss in lieu of an answer and terminates the proceeding without a hearing, an appeal of such order to the Board may be filed pursuant to the provisions of § 821.47. When a law judge grants a motion to dismiss in part, § 821.16 is applicable.

(d) *Motions to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction.* A motion to dismiss on the

ground that the Board lacks jurisdiction may be made at any time.

[49 FR 28249, July 11, 1984]

§ 821.18 Motion for more definite statement.

(a) A party, in lieu of an answer, may file a motion requesting that the allegations in the complaint or the petition be made more definite and certain. The motion shall point out the defects complained of and the details desired. If the motion is granted and the law judge's order is not complied with within 15 days after notice, the law judge shall strike the allegation or allegations in any complaint or petition to which the motion is directed. If the motion is denied, the moving party shall file an answer within 10 days after the denial.

(b) A party may file a motion to clarify an answer in the event that it fails to respond clearly either to the complaint or to the petition for review. Such a motion may be granted at the discretion of the law judge.

[49 FR 28249, July 11, 1984]

§ 821.19 Depositions and other discovery.

(a) *Initiation of discovery.* After a petition for review or a complaint is filed, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition, upon oral examination or written questions, without seeking prior Board approval. Reasonable notice shall be given in writing to the other parties of record stating the name of the witness and the time and place of the taking of the deposition. A copy of any notice of deposition shall be served on the Office of Administrative Law Judges. In other respects, the taking of any deposition shall be in compliance with the provisions of section 1004 of the Act.

(b) *Exchange of information by parties.* At any time before hearing, at the instance of either party, the parties or their representatives may exchange information, such as witness lists, exhibit lists, curricula vitae and bibliographies of expert witnesses, and other data. In the event of a dispute, either the assigned law judge or another law judge delegated this responsibility (if a